

TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE PROPOSED; COUNCIL DOES NOT FAVOR PLAN

Tucson Taxpayers' Association Plan Explained by Secretary Smalley; Views Differ as to Possibilities of the Plan for El Paso; Tax Valuation Increase Is Favored; Suburbs Are to Be Taken In.

EMPLOYMENT of an efficiency expert by taxpayers to cooperate with the city administration is not desired at this time by the city council.

This was shown at a meeting of the committee of the chamber of commerce with Mayor Tom Lea, his councilmen, and large property owners Thursday afternoon at the chamber of commerce.

George H. Smalley, secretary of the Pima County Taxpayers' association, was present upon invitation of the president of the chamber of commerce, J. B. Orndorff, and chairman Walter Kohlberg of the civic committee. He explained the workings of the Pima county organization which was formed to assist the local officials toward obtaining a more efficient management of the city and county affairs of Tucson and Pima county.

At the conclusion of Mr. Smalley's address to the meeting Mr. Orndorff called for expressions of opinion regarding the plan and its possibilities in El Paso. Mayor Lea stated that the council was willing at all times to receive suggestions and the councilmen would welcome any suggestions as to the solution of the problems of the city. "I do not wish to discourage the tax-

payers' league which has been considered," he said, "but I feel that the various city departments are in good hands and that the present council is seeking to save money, to be economical and yet progressive. We are willing to receive suggestions at all times and it is the duty of the citizens to make them. But I do not know whether a taxpayers' league can help anything, however, which will assist the council in its work of saving money for the people of El Paso will be gratefully received. I think, though, that Mr. Smalley thought we had the old style form of government, while we have the commission form."

Several Oppose Plan. Councilman R. B. Stevens spoke flatly against the proposed league or the employment of an expert by the chamber of commerce to assist the council. "I do not see any necessity for starting anything new," he said. "The chamber of commerce can appoint a committee to go over the valuations and to check the books without the organization of a league. But as for a man from Tucson coming here, I think the chamber of commerce is as good as a league as we need. I think we can work with a citizens' committee to a better advantage. I don't see the raising of valuations, for 40 percent or 50 percent valuation is too low. It should be raised to 65 percent or more, and this would increase the city's valuations by several millions and give us more bonding power."

John W. Fisher, another councilman, stated that he thought the chamber of commerce, the Ad Club and Rotary club should keep out of other affairs but their own, and while the council was always ready to receive suggestions, and the door is always open, he believed that the present system was satisfactory.

Lack of Confidence?

J. P. O'Connor did not make a statement of his views except to ask the meeting if the suggestion that a taxpayers' league be organized was any indication of a lack of confidence in the administration. He was assured by Mr. Orndorff and Robert Fisher that this was not the case and that the plan was to assist and not to criticize the city council in its work. Later Mr. O'Connor said his inquiry was made only in a joking way and not seriously.

While Mr. Smalley was explaining the work of city manager Clark, of Tucson, mayor Lea asked what the trouble was with the city manager in Phoenix and other places where there had been trouble with city managers. Mr. Smalley answered this by saying that the trouble had either been caused by politics or unfortunate moves such as disrupting the engineering department or some other department causing a lack of efficiency. He said Phoenix city manager had been paid \$5000 while Tucson paid \$4000 annually. The mayor and council drew only a nominal salary each month. He said in Tucson the city manager was paid from outside of the city and no politics entered into his appointment. He was elected, he said, by the council at the suggestion of the taxpayers' association.

What Saving Meant.

H. D. Slater, who attended to the fact that when a city council could save \$10,000 by applying more efficient methods it meant an increase of \$50,000 in the tax valuation of the city. He explained the formation of the old city club which was organized several years ago for a similar purpose and of another organization formed 15 years ago which accomplished great good. He said that organization had in mind the saving of money by the city and no politics entered into its formation.

"It has infinite possibilities," said Mr. Slater in referring to the proposed plan of a taxpayers' league, operating as a bureau of the chamber of commerce. He cannot see how such a movement could be regarded as in any sense antagonistic to the city plan.

Old Man Is Hit by Switch Engine; Yardmaster Says He Jumped Onto Track.

Elliot Polk, an aged traveler who was passing through the city from Los Angeles to Oklahoma City, was run over Thursday at the union station by a T. & P. switch engine. Both feet and one hand were cut off. Despite the fact that the man is more than 70 years of age it was stated at the Providence hospital Friday morning that he has a chance for recovery.

According to a statement made by Leslie W. Lunford, yardmaster at the union station, Polk was standing on the tracks in front of the engine. Lunford was riding on the front of the engine when, at a rate of three miles an hour, it approached the man in his hour, it approached the man in his hour, it approached the man in his hour.

Jumped Onto Track. Polk, he stated, standing behind the man and jumped onto the engine. Lunford called to him but the man stepped on the track and was hit by the engine, which dragged him 12 feet, when the engine was stopped. In his report Lunford declared that the man died in front of the engine, throwing himself prone on the track.

Since being taken to the hospital Polk has been delirious and has made no rational statement. Few identifying marks were found on his person. He arrived here Wednesday night and his ticket at the union station, calling for it Thursday. He is believed to live in Los Angeles but inquiry there has so far failed to locate any relatives.

As to the city government, it is not a medium of criticism or interference, but of assistance and cooperation.

Invited by Chamber. Mr. Smalley came here on the invitation of the chamber of commerce, said R. B. Orndorff. "We thought this would be something that would interest our members. This is the age of efficiency and we are trying to make the chamber of commerce a bigger and better organization."

Z. T. White strongly opposed the proposed plan, declaring that the reason for the change in the local city government to a modified commission form was to get the control into few hands and he thought the proposed league would counteract this effect. "I do not believe the city council needs advice," he said. "Let us leave the city council to attend to its affairs and not embarrass them, but leave them alone," he said. "I do not believe we need a taxpayers' league. Let the new council go over the tax rolls and equalize the taxes of the city. These councilmen as heads of departments are competent and economical managers. I do not see where a taxpayers' league could assist the council. Let the chamber of commerce appoint a committee of ten to see where it can help the city council."

Krakauer Favors League.

Robert Krakauer favors the proposed league and made a talk in favor of the chamber of commerce and in support of the plan. "This duty would be not to interfere but to assist the council and the city manager in the work of the city," he said. "I do not believe the city council needs advice. Let us leave the city council to attend to its affairs and not embarrass them, but leave them alone," he said. "I do not believe we need a taxpayers' league. Let the new council go over the tax rolls and equalize the taxes of the city. These councilmen as heads of departments are competent and economical managers. I do not see where a taxpayers' league could assist the council. Let the chamber of commerce appoint a committee of ten to see where it can help the city council."

W. G. Roe declared that the chamber of commerce was not to be organized to operate with the city and suggested a committee for this purpose. He did not favor the plan of the taxpayers' association.

How Tucson Did It.

In his talk to the meeting on the work accomplished by the Pima County Taxpayers' association, Mr. Smalley showed how money was saved there by the elimination of waste and the careful watching of all accounts. "The city manager in Tucson is very efficient and he has his finger on all of the details of the city government," said Mr. Smalley. "One way a saving was made in the raising of the police force. The force was reduced and the detective force increased and the record which was kept showed that better results were obtained. A saving of \$5000 a year was made in this department alone. All of the city and county and school district books were audited and data obtained on the cost of supplies. The tax rolls were carefully watched and the water department watched. It was found that Tucson was using more water than El Paso and the solution of this problem was to meter the city, which is being done. The consolidation of the functions of the city and county government which overlap was also secured at a saving to both city and county. The assessor, tax collector and health officer were consolidated."

Publicity by Taxation. "We got a publicity fund by taxation. We went to the legislature and got a law allowing a 1-cent of one percent for publicity work. We appointed a publicity commission and it now receives \$7500 annually from this taxation fund."

This point started a general discussion of the possibilities of supporting the chamber of commerce and its publicity bureau by direct taxation instead of by the present budget fund in which less than 500 subscribers participate. Mr. Orndorff declared that he favored the plan if there was any way to bring it about. Mayor Lea said Amarillo had such a plan and he suggested writing there for a description of the plan. He said, however, that it would probably mean a charter amendment to make it possible.

Z. T. White said he favored such a plan of supporting the chamber of commerce so that the 5000 or more taxpayers and not the 500 subscribers should bear the burden equally. Schwartz also favored it and called attention to the fact that people outside the city did not pay their share although they received the benefits. Walter Kohlberg called attention to the fact that the corporations do not subscribe now while they would be forced to assist if the tax plan was adopted.

Budget by Taxation. This led to a discussion of the possibilities of obtaining more revenue for the city by increasing the tax valuation percentage from 40 to 50 percent to 65 or even higher. This was urged by Mr. Slater. Who declared that the valuations were too low and that it would be necessary to increase these before more bond issues could be sold. He said the valuation was much lower here than in most other cities.

To Take In Suburbs. Mayor Lea announced that the council was now working on a plan to take in the suburban sections which are not now a part of the city. He said the advantages of this would overcome any objections to the payment of taxes to the city and cited the fact that water, fire, light and sewerage service was not compulsory in these suburban additions but would be if they became a part of the city. This would increase the tax valuations he said. He announced that the bonding ability of the city was now only \$250,000 and that would be exhausted during the year. He said, because of this limit, the valuations must be increased by taking in outside districts.

Those present at the meeting were: George H. LeBaron, W. G. Roe, J. P. O'Connor, W. G. Jolly, John W. Fisher, Mayor Tom Lea, Z. T. White, R. B. Stevens, Noel Longmeyer, E. T. Koons, A. Schwartz, M. Newman, K. Arnold, R. B. Orndorff, R. B. Stewart, Walter Kohlberg, H. D. Slater, Robert Krakauer, A. W. Reeves.

The Noted "Anti Hell Fire" Talker Will Address El Pasoans Next Monday.

"Pastor" Russell, of London and Brooklyn Tabernacles, president of the International Bible Students' association, will visit El Paso next Monday and will deliver an address at the El Paso theater at 8 p. m., his topic being "The Battle of Armageddon."

The "pastor" claims to be an optimist of the most pronounced type, but, according to his own statements, he does not expect the present war to end until his antagonism to the nations involved. Following this struggle, he declares, and largely as its result, an even greater conflict will ensue, resulting in social revolution and anarchy, and finally ushering in Christ's kingdom.

"Pastor" Russell as an independent bible teacher, has won a unique place in the religious world during the past 10 years; his antagonism to the teaching of a place of fire and brimstone as the eternal home of the wicked has gained for him the title of "anti hell fire preacher." As a religious writer, he has the distinction of being the author of a series of books on "Bible study" having a circulation now said to exceed eight millions. During the past year his picture story of the bible, "Creation," has been presented throughout this country and Europe, and created quite a sensation, as it is the first successful effort to present a systematic course in bible study by means of motion pictures. The Bible Students' association financed its presentation.

One of the provisions invariably made by "Pastor" Russell is that he will speak only where admission is free to the public and no collection is lifted. It is announced that Monday's lecture will be under these conditions.

After being in the water for 72 hours, the body of Jack Leighton was recovered at 4:45 Thursday afternoon from the cement plant reservoir. Young Leighton was swimming in the reservoir with some friends when he was taken with cramps and was drowned Monday afternoon.

Searchers had been at work trying to recover the body of the drowning. Dynamite was exploded under the water, divers searched the bottom of the reservoir and lines with hooks attached were used to drag the bottom of the lake. This method proved successful as one of the grappling hooks attached to a heavy line caught on the body Thursday afternoon and the body was brought to the surface. Capt. W. D. Green, of the police force, had in charge of the searching parties and spent the greater part of his time in the search for the boy's body.

Young Leighton came here from Sacramento, Calif., and was an amateur baseball player with the Feldman team in the Commercial league. He was a pitcher and was to have been given a tryout by manager John McElroy, of the El Paso team in the Rio Grande league.

The boy's body was returned to his former home in Sacramento, Friday morning, accompanied by his brother, Hal Leighton.

MATINEE CONCERTS BY INFANTRY BAND

Sixteenth infantry band concerts are proving as popular as the ones which are being given through the week at the El Paso theater. The 16th infantry band plays its concert at 4 o'clock each afternoon, except Saturday and Sunday, in the house, and the concerts have been well attended.

The program prepared by bandmaster Ernest G. Fischer for the 16th infantry band concert was especially popular, including a cornet solo by bandmaster Fischer. The 6th infantry band will give a concert this evening at Camp Cotton, starting at 7 o'clock. The program for the 6th band is arranged by bandmaster Max Muller, Jr.

March, "Kits City" (Weldon). Overture, "Maximilian Robespierre" (Lafare). "Gold and Silver" (Lafare). Selection, "The Red Mill" (Lafare). A Musical Interlude in the Forest with Echo Quetz orchestra.

Final, "The International Rag" (Berlin).

TODAY'S AMUSEMENTS

SPECIAL AT THE GRECIAN. "The Absentee," latest and greatest "Mutual Masterpiece" is the special attraction at the Grecian today. Robert Edeson, the celebrated star of a legitimate stage, and a remarkable strong supporting cast will be seen in this tremendous allegorical drama. It is declared the most powerful presentation of the fundamental truth given the world since "Everywoman."

The play depicts a scene of lovely depiction of the "Valley of Hope," the play is a wandering in the guise of "Ambition." Two roads widen before the eye, one leads to "Success," the other the "Failure." Here "Pleasure" and "Ignorance" struggle with him. Then "Power," "Might," "Evil," "Contentment," "Justice," "Extravagance" and "Vanity" are personified. When he realizes the truth of life, happiness returns to him. At this point the play is a powerful play which has been shown in a powerful way.

"Clemenceau Case" Tomorrow. Theda Bara, the famous "raucous woman," in her latest triumph, "The Clemenceau Case," will be remembered for her splendid work in "A Fool There Was" and "Kreutzer Sonata."

No more powerful sermon was ever preached than "The Clemenceau Case," a more vivid, pulsating drama was never written. No more wonderful play has ever been beheld upon the screen. These statements are made with reservation. Like a mighty river, the story of the drama, strong and swift to its catalytic climax. Passions flare and will clash and crush, and in a every respect, that grips the spectator, holding him breathless in his chair till the last great scene is reached and the well nigh overwhelming story is brought to its tremendous end.

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"The Woman," Alhambra. All stars and no less in the play to you the review of the fine feature, "The Woman," that is being shown at the Alhambra today only. "The Woman" has a powerful and fascinating plot, taken from modern American life, and every inch is vibrant with human interest.

"The Unique." An exceptionally attractive four-part military drama, which the Unique is showing today, will satisfy any audience. This is a strong and exciting picture ever shown in El Paso, with a well picked cast that would do credit to a much larger production. The show begins on the hour.

Tomorrow, Billie Ritchie will make his appearance in "Love and Sour Notes." Don't forget Billie Ritchie Saturday. "A Fool There Was," the most fascinating picture ever shown in El Paso, will be back next Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Arrange now for the matinee.—Advertisement.

Lubin Special at the Bijou. A special program will be given at the Bijou today. It embraces a three-part feature entitled "Who Violates the Law." This is a very interesting drama, featuring the ever-popular screen artist, Arthur Johnson, assisted by Lotie Blaiscoe. The action and acting in this picture are all that one could



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TWO-O-TWO TEXAS

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wish for, and the excellent scenic effects add greatly to the success of the film.

David Belasco's spectacular drama in five parts, "The Girl I Left Behind," featuring Robert Edison, will be here soon.—Advertisement.

REALTY AND INSURANCE

The organization meeting of real estate and insurance men who are members of the chamber of commerce, which was to have been held Friday, has been postponed as the report on the constitution and bylaws has not yet been completed.

A. P. Coles, one of the organizers of the association, is out of the city and it is not expected that the meeting will be held until he returns.

SANTA FE OFFICIALS VISIT RIO GRANDE DIVISION. A party of Santa Fe officials, headed by F. C. Fox, general manager of the western grand division of the line, arrived here Monday night on a general inspection tour.

Mr. Fox is accompanied by C. H. Bristol, general superintendent, and Frederick Blaise, chief engineer. The headquarters of the officials are at Amarillo. The party left Friday afternoon for the north.

U. S. "ATTACKING FLEET" IS SIGHTED NEAR NEWPORT. Newport, R. I., May 21.—The "attacking fleet" in the United States naval war game now being played off the Atlantic coast was sighted near here Thursday. It consisted of 14 battleships and a swarm of destroyers and smaller craft. The defending fleet has not been sighted.

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Shoulder Pot Roast, per lb.	12 1/2c	Home Made Bacon, per lb.	25c
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